

**Nazarene Youth International
Metro New York District Report
2017-2018**

God Bless you dear brothers and sisters in the Faith! Dr. David Busic, Rev. Art Alexander, Elders, Ministers, Delegates, Faith Family of Metro New York District, we serve an awesome Lord! It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as the NYI Director for the year 2017-2018! It has been one of the greatest blessings in my life to love and care for youth leaders and youth all across our Metro New York District. Looking back on what the Lord began to do last year and seeing how far we have come is extremely exciting, humbling, and truly inspiring!

Last year we began journeying into the calling of unity among our leaders breaking down barriers that may have kept us apart. We focused on connecting our youth leadership from across our different cultural backgrounds with the hope that they would be resourced, supported, and inspired by one another in Christ. This thought process was inline with our vision to see youth in our mission area impacted by the love of Christ through the service of equipped and vibrant youth leadership. This year we have seen tremendous growth, promise, and confirmation that we are on the right track. Instead of listing out all of the events, below you will find a summary of all the highlights from this year. Please be sure to visit our Facebook page and website to view more photos and documented archives of all that took place during this last year. We truly believe that all of this is just the very tip of the iceberg. God has so much more in store for our mission area and **NOW IS THE TIME TO BELIEVE THE PROMISE AND WALK OUT IN FAITH MAKING DISCIPLES OF THE NATIONS IN METRO NEW YORK!**

None of what is reported below would have been possible without the direct contribution, assistance, support, passion, and love of all the youth leaders that bought into the vision and believed that **UNITY AND SYNERGY IN CHRIST WERE POSSIBLE in spite of our differences.** I can honestly say that I completely love the NYI/JNI TEAM the Lord has brought together. I would like to acknowledge and honor some of the many individuals that were fully committed, served, and supported the NYI District Ministry throughout the year: My beloved wife and children **Nancy Rivera, Caleb Rivera, Chloe Rivera; Yakima Brown, Rev. Shane Burt-Miller, Lindsay & Sergio Ovalle, Jorge Bourdett, Ashley Ovalle, Lenmarie Pascall, Melissa & Brenton Peters, Rev. Jonathan & Denisse Huffman, Yelssy Manza, Rev. Christine Paolino ...wait wait there is more... Latalya Morrison, Kristina Newland Sammy, Aaron Stiles, Rev. Denise Shaffer, Shannon Ifill, Felicia Reid, Julissa Urrutia, Juan Ruiz, Brendy & Maynor Franco, Mateus & Natalia Madeira, and Kathy Martini.** Words cannot describe the appreciation and love I have for all of you! None of this could have been done without your input, sacrifices, prayers, and hard work.

1. FESTIVAL OF LIFE 2018 District & Eastern Field Event - Feb 10 / Mar 15-19, 2018

We saw growth in participation of our District FOL Event. Our District Tryouts were held at Eastern Christian Academy in New Jersey. We participated in various events at the Field event at ENC in Quincy, MA. Our MNY team brought home 9 Medals (7 silver, 2 Bronze)!

2. Urban Youth Workers Institute - 90 Degrees Program Graduation! - March 24, 2018

6 of our Youth Leaders participated in a 10 month course in Urban Youth Work. They graduated receiving there certificate with much joy and hard work. We are getting ready to sign up, send, and scholarship our next group of youth leaders that are interested in the 90 Degrees Program.

3. At The Table - Leadership Gatherings - (*Multiple Dates 2017-2018).

We increased the number of zonal leadership gatherings from 6 to 13. These meetings were full of training, worship, prayer, and motivation. We have seen much growth and cross-cultural ministry opportunities form due to the Holy Spirit moving in these spaces of connection, community, and sharpening. Our themes or sayings have been "BETTER TOGETHER" "YOU ARE NOT ALONE" (*Queens - x2 Gatherings, New Jersey x2, Brooklyn x2, Long Island x2, Central NY/CT x5, Northern NY - 3 Church Visits*). "Growing Young" books have been given out to youth leaders and we are currently studying the book together.

4. "EPIC" Youth & Young Adult Summer Camp - Aug 17-20, 2017

We experienced such an unbelievable time at our Summer Retreat. Thank God we had a registration of **260** students gathered for a weekend of immense joy and inspiration. It was a complete multi-cultural, trilingual experience. Many bridges and relationships were formed, and the Lord truly impacted us with HIS EPIC STORY OF GRACE! *We are projecting over 300 youth for this years camp!*

5. Young Adult Fall Retreat - (Spruce Lake Mountain Lodge) - Nov. 10-12th, 2017

This year we were able to begin preliminary preparation for our young adult ministry. We took advantage to invite and retreat to a Mountain Cabin with about 50 Young Adults from across our district. During this time we hiked, worshiped, prayed, and shared the struggles YA's are facing in today's day. We took this information that was shared and have begun planning further ministry initiatives to address the needs, concerns, and opportunities presented.

6. "Worship & Prayer Nights" - Oct 13, 2017 / May 4th, 2018

This year we began an initiative to guide our youth through worship and prayer. This initiative has to aspects to it. We had one zonal worship and prayer night for **Central NY/CT** churches Oct 13, 2017 in New Rochelle. We hosted an all district Worship and Prayer Night titled **MOSAIC** May 4, 2018, in Brooklyn NY. We desire to make MOSAIC an annual gathering that can develop into a major conference for our district, with the hope that this time will be of service to all involved with youth and young adults (youth groups, parents, and leaders).

7. GOL Outreach Ministry (Gospel Outreach Love) - July 29 / Dec 2, 2017

We have begun an outreach/evangelism project using the sport of soccer. We have been able to participate with Brentwood Restauracion when they hosted an outreach July 29 (Hecksher Park, East Islip, NY). An indoor tournament was also organized Dec 2 in Eastern Christian High School. 5 Different churches partnered together to compete and share the Gospel with all participants.

8. "District 2 District" Partnerships - Sept 1-2, 2017 / April 27-29, 2018

a. "Aquatopia" Indoor Water Park - We are thankful that Metro New York is beginning to connect with other districts from our Eastern Field. This year we were able to join the Philadelphia District at their back to school Rally. This was a locking event that went over night. We are scheduled to join them again this coming year.

b. JNI Virginia - We are thankful for the strong relationship we were able to form with the Virginia district. We took part in **JNI VA's Ultra Camp 2018** (Youth Spring Retreat). Talks are being held to possibly organize an event where both youth districts can meet and have more contact for the purpose of supporting one another in the ministry.

9. Youth Group Development Support/Training -

We have begun to not only visit churches but also help churches develop their youth ministries in a more focused and direct approach. This year we were able to sit in on a few youth group

leadership meetings and help local NYI councils think through some of the challenges facing their specific ministry. We have identified churches that report no youth, or low youth and have been contacting them to provide and offer assistance and support. We plan to develop this program further. This may be for groups starting out, relaunching, struggling, or feel stuck.

10. Youth Bible Quizzing - (Every Third Saturday 2017-18)

Special thank you and recognition of Yakima Browne our MNY Youth Quizzing Coordinator. She has done an exceptional job with our youth quizzers! Our quizzing teams have met up every 3rd Saturday of the month to Quiz in various locations. Our Quizzing team competed in the Regional Eastern Field Competition in ENC, MA. They placed 3rd with a Bronze out of 8 Districts! 5 of our quizzers were in the top 10 out of 50 quizzers! GO Metro!!

***Statistics to keep in mind:**

A. The NYI District Ministry has increased its engagement of local churches. We now have **connection and communication with 62 out of 111 churches**. This has increased significantly from last years engagement of **30 churches**. There is still more work to do!

B. According to the NYI USA/CANADA statistics there are **approx. 31 churches in our district that have reported no youth or active NYI members!** We will be focused on this, and will continue to reach out, support, resource, and engage those churches.

There is so much more that cannot be fully expressed or recorded on paper that have left us all in awe of what God does with His people! The relationships and partnerships that have formed and continue to form are incredible. We are extremely excited as we look forward to 2018-2019! It is going to be a year of further growth, development, and impact through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. All of it was accomplished in, through, and because of Christ!
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

Respectively submitted,

Norberto Rivera (Tito)
Nazarene Youth International Director